

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
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Report No. 40

REPORT ON TWO ADULT BROOK TROUT FROM THE WEST BRANCH, TITTABAWASSEE  
RIVER, GLADWIN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Size of trout, 12 1/2 inches. Sex—both males. Preservation fluid, 10% formalin. State of preservation—one excellent, other good.

We are unable to tell from the letter from Mr. H. G. Booth, Conservation Officer, Gladwin, Michigan, whether these fish were picked up alive or dead.

The dorsal part of each fish was fungused and the area rather extensive. The ventral side of one was also fungused.

The liver and testes of one fish were extensively pitted, the kidneys had disintegrated and the spleen was large. In the other, the better preserved specimen, there were several pits in the liver, the spleen was small, swim bladder intact and kidneys in a good state of preservation. These facts seem to indicate that the pits were not caused by normal disintegration but have possibly resulted from an infection.

Mr. Booth says in his letter, "It appears that quite a number of these fish have been found along the West Branch of the Tittabawassee River in Gladwin County by men who are clearing brush away from the edge of the stream. They seem to know nothing of the cause of their death". One would gather from the above statements that the sick fish probably sought shelter and protection along the banks of the stream. We found that fungused fish suffering with furunculosis at Grayling Hatchery would go to the very edge of the pond where the water was just deep enough to float them. They would lie here

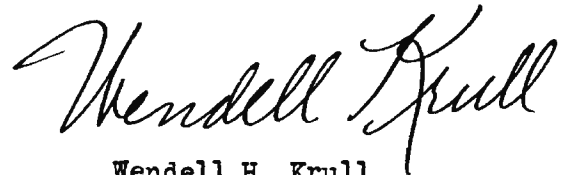
and usually remained in one place.

Since there apparently is a slight epidemic among the brook trout in the Tittabawassee and the cause very obscure—there is good indication to suspect furunculosis. Brook trout are very susceptible, may show no lesions and still be fatally affected. This disease according to European workers is widely distributed in wild waters. Epidemics are very slight at times, symptoms very obscure, and blood examination necessary for identification which give us cause for thinking that this disease has often been overlooked.

The need for fresh material on ice has been brought to Officer Booth's attention.

There is no reason to suspect dynamiting of the fish.

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Wendell H. Krull  
Fish Pathologist

CC. to Conservation Officer H. G. Booth

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